

Chorley Corporation Owns The Miles Standish Estate In England

What happened to the estate Miles Standish lived in before he came to America? The answer is given by Bertram H. Gaskell, Secretary of the Chorley and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce in Chorley, England. His letter, as published in the May 20 issue of the Christian Science Monitor, follows:

As we are celebrating the Festival of Britain this year and so many people from America will be visiting this country, it occurred to me that they would be interested in the town in which Miles Standish lived before coming to your country on the Mayflower. His estate at Duxbury is now owned by the Chorley Corporation.

In our 12th century Parish Church there is still the Standish pew in good preservation. Many of the soldiers of the American army who were stationed on the outskirts of our town at a camp they called Washington Hall were most interested in this pew and in the church in which Miles Standish worshipped. The home of Miles Standish was at Duxbury Park in the center of a lovely park, and is only two miles from the center of Chorley. Our town is in the center of Lancashire.

We also have a fine Elizabethan Hall called Astley going back to the 16th century, wonderfully preserved and not modernized in any way. This hall stands in a park now owned and kept in its natural setting by the Corporation of Chorley.

Should any of our American friends come this way they will be sure of a warm welcome, and our librarian will be most happy to give full information and help to enable visitors to see all connected with Miles Standish, whose

monument I understand is at Duxbury in your country.

Incidentally, a year ago almost to the day (in the June 8, 1950 issue of the Clipper) we told of an incident that happened to us while serving in the Navy in Washington, D. C.:

It was a hot July day in 1945, and the last bus had gone. While we were waiting for a taxi, a car stopped and offered a lift. There was casual conversation until the name of Duxbury was mentioned.

"I'm a bit interested in that place, you see," the driver said. The accent was as genteel as it was English. "My people came from the same ancestral home in England as the Myles Standish who lived in Duxbury, Massachusetts. The name of the home was Duxbury Hall."

We asked if he was related to Myles Standish.

"Oh yes," he said. "We are descended from the same family. And it just so happens that my name, too, is Myles Standish."

He was born in England, and had never been in our Duxbury.

Ed.